ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An information retrieval method, process, and apparatus are provided which includes iterative or parametric data set querying. The result of each query iteration is displayed in an easy to analyze fashion, enabling the user to interactively refine the query with additional iterations. Each field of data in a data set is represented by a filter in a filter tree table. A user may graphically select and de-select filters using the filter tree table. The selections are converted into a filtering query that is run against the data set to produce filtered data. A summary query is then run against the results of the filtering query. The filtered data is displayed, along with the selected filters of the filter tree table. The filter tree table may also include and display other information related to each filter, such as an associated data item count as generated by the summary query. Further user input is accepted, with the user input further selecting or de-selecting data groupings to be displayed. The user input is fed back to generate another filtering iteration. In this manner, when the user makes a single selection or de-selection, all applicable filters are changed, and the user changes are propagated through all appropriate filters.